



Mr. Samuel May,
Leicester,



Mass ts



Wayland, May 19th, 1873.

Dear Mr. May,

I thank you
very cordially for sending me
the Biography of S. J. May.

It is a very interesting volume,
and the goodly character it
portrays is a most precious
boon for posterity. How
much intellect gains in strength
and beauty, when it is impelled
to activity by a high moral
purpose! I wish the present
generation could be arrested in

its extravagant and frivolous
career by some such earnest,
self-sacrificing work as the
Anti-Slavery cause presented.

The prevailing contempt for
labor, and the universal greed
for sudden wealth, render me
hopeless concerning the perma-
nence of our Republican in-
stitutions. That the progress
of the world will go on, under
the guidance of a wise Providence,
I do not doubt; but the idea
that we may prove unworthy
of the high mission entrusted
to us gives me pain. The Anti-
Slavery struggle, and the noble
spirit of self-sacrifice awakened

by the attack of Slavery on
the 'life of the nation, seemed
for a while to lift us up
on a higher moral plane;
but how fast we are making
the American name a by-word
and a reproach! If Theodore
Parker were still with us, how
the roar of his indignation
would shake and arouse the
land!

Mr. Child was very much
gratified by your sending
him the pamphlet concerning
Col. Joseph May; and he has
been intending, from day to
day, to write and tell you so;
but his hands have been, for

months, badly crippled by
rheumatism. They are getting
better, but it still pains him to
hold a pen. He was much inter-
ested in the pamphlet, having
a lively reminiscence of Col.
May, and a great respect for
him. I also well remember his
urbane manners and commanding
presence. I dined several times
his house, when his daughters,
Louisa and Abby, were both at
home, and the Widow Carey wa
their frequent visiter. How long
ago it seems!

Mr. Child unites with me in best
respects and cordial good wishes
for you and your excellent mate,
Most sincerely yr friend, L. M. Child